



BRUNEAU

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

I D A H O



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

INTO THE WILDERNESS— BRUNEAU WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

The Bruneau Wild and Scenic River flows north through the deep, rocky canyons of southwestern Idaho's Bruneau-Jarbridge Rivers Wilderness Area. The West Fork of the Bruneau joins the Jarbridge River to form the main Bruneau River—a unique web of remote and rugged waterways. From placid pools to turbulent whitewater, from vertical cliffs to steep, grassy slopes, the rivers and their canyons challenge visitors with the extraordinary. Here, one can experience unsurpassed solitude and beauty, or discover the thrill of an unrivaled rafting adventure along the ever-changing rapids.

Visitors may glimpse elusive California bighorn sheep climbing the canyon walls. Pronghorn, deer, elk, sage-grouse, and chukar all thrive in the sagebrush habitat, while the water is home to river otters, beaver, and redband trout. The rare wildflower Bruneau River phlox is a river canyon beauty that is found nowhere else.

Twelve million years ago volcanism in the Bruneau-Jarbridge area formed an oval basin 60 miles long and 30 miles wide. Multiple lava flows and explosive eruptions occurred as the Earth's crust slowly migrated and melted over an intense hotspot. About two million years ago, rivers slowly began to carve out the extraordinary canyons visible today, brilliantly showcasing pages in Earth history.

Nearly 40 floatable miles of the Bruneau River and portions of the West Fork Bruneau River and Jarbridge River were designated as wild and scenic rivers in March 2009. The same designation created the Bruneau-Jarbridge Rivers Wilderness Area from the surrounding uplands. Today, this 90,000-acre area and the wild and scenic river segments are managed as part of the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System (also known as National Conservation Lands).

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America's Newest Conservation System

The National Conservation Lands encompass more than 30 million acres of specially designated places under the stewardship of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). More than 875 areas, including national monuments, national conservation areas, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national scenic and historic trails make up this collection of notable places.

National Conservation Lands are designated to conserve the diverse ecological, cultural, and historical resources found within them. They are also recognized for their recreational, educational, and scientific values.

While National Conservation Lands remain largely primitive and undeveloped, they continue to support traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, and livestock grazing. They are an important part of the 245 million acres of public lands and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate that the BLM manages for multiple uses and a sustained yield of resources, such as energy, minerals, forage, timber, and recreation.

With the help of community stakeholders, friends groups, youth organizations, schools, and volunteers, the BLM is forging a new conservation model for the National Conservation Lands—one that engages Americans in helping to conserve, protect, and restore these landscapes for the benefit of present and future generations.